

Library

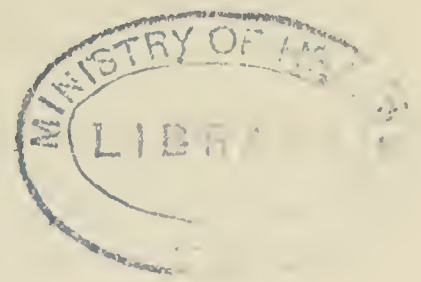
WAINFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

SANITARY INSPECTOR



FOR THE YEAR

1953

Chairman of the Council: Major. B.W. Blower, J.P.

Chairman of the Public Health
and General Purposes Committee: Brigadier W.D.
Robertson.

Medical Officer of Health: J.B. Kershaw, M.B., B.S.,
D.P.H.

Council Offices,
1, Ballygate,
BECCLES.

19th. July 1954.

S T A F F

Sanitary Inspector.

W.A. Collins.
Cert. S.I.B.

Rodent Operative.

A. Turner.

WAINFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1953

To: The Chairman and Members of Wainford Rural District Council.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1953.

The population has risen slightly and there are more inhabited houses. This latter figure will not appear as high as might be expected on account of the closure of a large number of temporary hutment dwellings.

There were five more births than in 1952, and, for the third year in succession three deaths of infants under one year of age. One of these was due to delayed effects of birth injuries and the other two were premature twins which only survived a few hours.

The maternal mortality rate was again nil.

The total number of deaths is nineteen less than in the previous year, chiefly owing to the fact that there were fewer deaths due to heart disease and the number of deaths from malignant disease did not reach double figures.

The chief infectious disease notifications was of whooping cough, several parishes being affected in November and December. All ten notified cases of pneumonia occurred during the period February to April.

At the end of the year there was the same number of cases on the tuberculosis register as at the beginning. In most districts, nowadays, new cases are being notified earlier in their course, owing to improved methods of diagnosis. One of the new male pulmonary cases was discovered by routine mass radiography. At the time of writing this report the individual concerned is back from the sanatorium and has resumed normal activities. Several of the new cases of tuberculosis were of neck glands in children. It has not been possible to trace back the source of milk supply which was undoubtedly responsible.

During 1953 the County Sanitary Inspector carried out the routine sampling of milk for bacteriological examination. Appropriate action was taken to safeguard supplies of milk from herds where infection was found, and families of producers and employees were 'followed up' for suspicious signs of tuberculosis.

The years progress in housing, water supplies, sewerage and general hygiene is fully reported in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

The difficulty in disposing of waste water and sewage from Council Houses with internal piped water supplies was further emphasised and it becomes necessary to consider the natural sequel of a main supply, viz. the possibility of parish sewerage schemes at some future date.

In connection with emergency housing, the policy of 'running down' the number of occupied hutments on airfields was pursued and has led nearer to the need for solution of the question of future accommodation for the residual 'irreducible minimum' families.

The practice of testing well water for nitrate nitrogen in households where births of infants are expected was continued and

where the nitrate level was too high for safety the householders were directed to a suitable safe supply.

On the evidence available, it may be fairly stated that 1953 was a satisfactory year as far as the physical health of the population was concerned.

General Statistics

Area 44,871 acres.
 Registrar Generals estimate
 of population (mid 1953).. 7,025.
 Number of inhabited houses. 2,201.
 Rateable value £20,990.
 Product of Penny Rate £81. 3s. 0.50d.

Vital Statistics

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live Births.	76.	53.	129
(Illegitimate births)	(6)	(3)	(9)
Birth rate per 1,000 population	16.9		
Rate per 1,000 population England & Wales...	15.5		
Comparability factor ..	1.1		
Still Births. (legitimate).. 2		1	3
Still Births (Illegitimate). -		-	-
Rate per 1,000 live births..	23.2		
Rate per 1,000 population42		
Rate per 1,000 England & Wales..	.35		

Maternal Mortality Nil.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths of infants under one year...	1	2	3
Rate per 1,000 live births	23.2		
Rate per 1,000 live births (England & Wales)	26.8		

Death Rate

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population 10.4
 Death rate per 1,000 estimated population
 (England & Wales) 11.4
 Comparability factor. 0.83

<u>Causes of Death</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	-	-	-
Tuberculosis (Non-Respiratory)	-	1	1
Malignant disease of stomach.	1	-	1
Malignant disease of lungs.	2	-	2
Malignant disease of breast	-	1	1
Other malignant disease	1	3	4
Lesions of blood vessels of the nervous system	8	3	11
Coronary heart disease (anguia)	9	2	11
Other heart disease	12	11	23
Influenza	1	-	1

Causes of Death contd.Males.Females.Total

Pneumonia	-	2	2
Bronchitis	1	-	1
Ulcer of stomach	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	7	10
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
All other accidents	1	2	3
	<u>41</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>73</u>
1952	(58)	(34)	(92)

Infectious Disease.

The following cases of infectious disease were notified during the year:

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Whooping Cough	26	10	36
Measles	-	1	1
Scarlet Fever	2	-	2
Pneumonia	7	3	10
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	1	1

Tuberculosis

At the beginning of the year the following cases were on the register:-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pulmonary	9	5	14
Non-pulmonary	5	7	12

At the end of the year the following cases were on the register:-

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pulmonary	11	4	15
Non-pulmonary	5	6	11

During the year:

Additions to the register were as follows:-

New cases	4	Inward transfers	3
-----------	---	------------------	---

Removals from the register were as follows:

Removed to other Districts :	4
Recovered :	2
Died :	1

Food Poisoning

There were no notified cases of food poisoning during the year:

National Assistance Act 1948.

Section 47 of this Act deals with the compulsory removal to an institution of persons who, by reason of physical incapacity, or other cause, are unable to care for themselves. In no case was

it found necessary to take action under this Section during 1953.

Milk

The County Council Public Health Staff took samples of milk from the herds of producers.

In two cases the milk was found to be infected with brucella organisms and in two cases the milk was found to be infected with tuberculosis.

Where tuberculosis was found in the milk, the milk was already being sent for pasteurisation and no formal action was necessary. The producers, their families and employees were warned against drinking the milk raw and the herds were dealt with by the Divisional Veterinary Officer.

Of the two brucella infected cases, one was of a herd whose milk was already being sent to the wholesalers for pasteurisation and it was only necessary to warn the producers and employees against drinking the milk raw and untreated. In the other case however the milk was being sent to the wholesalers as 'Channel Island TT milk' and being added to the 'pool'. Thanks to the co-operation of the wholesale firm, this milk was excluded from the pool and put through the pasteurisation plant, thereby obviating the issue of a formal diversion order. The usual informal warning was issued to the producer against the risk of drinking the milk in a raw untreated state.

Conclusion

This will be my last Annual report to the Wainford Rural District Council and I should like to add my sincere thanks to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their courtesy and co-operation at all times.

I am,

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J.B.KERSHAW.

Private PropertyDemolition Orders

Number of vacant condemned houses	27
Number of occupied condemned houses	56
Number of vacant condemned properties demolished	6
Number of houses earmarked for future action under demolition procedure	318

Enforcement Action

Number of recorded complaints.	71
Number of houses inspected	93
Number of houses found with sanitary defects	93
Number of cases of overcrowding relieved (estimate)	28
Number of premises supplied with piped water after the service of:-	
Informal Notices	13
Statutory Notices	6
Number of premises where nuisances were abated	28

Improvement Grants

Number of formal applications	Nil
Number approved by Ministry of Housing & Local Govt. (approved by Council in previous calendar year)	1

WATER SUPPLYQuantity

Shallow wells were low at the end of the year owing to absence of rainfall but no water carting was resorted to except in the two permanent cases which were reported in the previous year's Annual Report.

Quality - Chemical and Microscopical

Samples were submitted to the Analyst from the pumping stations at All Saints, St. Lawrence and Rumburgh for routine chemical analysis, the results being as follows:-

	<u>All Saints.</u>	<u>St. Lawrence.</u>	<u>Rumburgh</u>
<u>Appearance:</u>	Yellow. Opalescent.	Yellow; Turbid.	Yellow: Turbid.
<u>Nature of Deposit.</u>	Trace Vegetable matter & iron.	Iron.	Iron compounds; Chalk.
<u>Colour</u>	Yellow.	Yellow.	Yellow.
<u>Odour</u>	Nil	Nil	Nil
<u>Reaction</u>	Practically neutral.	Practically neutral	Neutral.
<u>pH</u>	7.4	7.3	7.2
<u>Taste</u>	Satisfactory.	Slightly ferruginous.	Slightly ferruginous.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

To the Chairman and Members of the
Wainford Rural District Council.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present my section of the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1953 which relates more particularly to the sanitary control of environment in its effect on public health.

The year was one of consolidation after advances made in water supply, new housing and rodent control.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

HOUSING CONDITIONS

New Buildings

The Council completed 81 new dwellings during the year 1953 which is their record figure and brings the total number of dwellings provided by the Council to 359. Twelve Council Houses were in course of construction at the end of the year. Ten houses were built by private enterprise.

Requisitioned Property

Three houses remain under the control of the Council.

Emergency hutment accommodation on ex-Air Ministry requisitioned land was as follows:-

Total number of families in hutments at December 1952, 159.

Number of families in hutments at
December 1953:-

Ellough Airfield	33
Holton Airfield	11
Flixton Airfield	4

48

During the year 111 families left the ex-Airfields, the majority being accommodated in permanent dwellings by Beccles Borough Council and the Wainford Council and the remainder by other contiguous Councils and private landlords.

This exodus, albeit incomplete, must afford considerable satisfaction to the Councils concerned, no less than to the Wainford Council's officers responsible for managing and maintaining this sub-standard accommodation.

Water Contd.

	<u>All Saints.</u>	<u>St. Lawrence.</u>	<u>Rumburgh</u>
	<u>Parts per million</u>		
Ammon.nitrogen.	Trace.	0.26.	Nil
Album.nitrogen	0.05	0.03.	0.03.
Nitrate Nitrogen	Nil	Nil	Nil
Chlorine as			
chlorides	120	267	178
Nitrite Nitrogen	Nil	Nil	Nil

Analysts Opinions

<u>All Saints</u>	This water is of good organic quality and free from any sign of pollution. A trace of iron is present but the quantity should be insufficient to cause serious inconvenience. This water, is in our opinion, fit for drinking purposes.
<u>St. Lawrence</u>	The organic quality of this water is good, and the chemical analysis shows no sign of pollution. Iron is present in some quantity which gives rise to a rusty deposit on standing. This is, of course, a nuisance in water used for general purposes but would be without effect on health. On the chemical evidence this water would be confidently accepted as fit for drinking purposes. The unsatisfactory bacteriological reports are almost certainly occasioned by contamination of the pump itself or of associated apparatus. We feel sure that the inherent quality of the water is satisfactory and steps should be taken to cleanse the pumping apparatus.
<u>Rumburgh</u>	This water is of very good organic quality and there is no sign of pollution. A trace of iron is present which gives rise to a small rusty deposit on standing. This is without effect on health and in our opinion this water is fit for drinking purposes.

A microscopical examination was made on water from the Public pump at High Common, Barsham as a result of taste complaints which were diagnosed as being caused by a combination of iron and organic matter.

For the prevention of well water cyanosis in infants the scheme started last year, continued. As a result of notifications of births by the County Council it was necessary to submit 33 water samples to the Public Analyst, where the characteristics of the water were not known.

24 samples were found to be safe. 5 doubtful and 4 unsafe

Quality - Bacteriological

21 samples were examined (52 in 1951) and the following 11 were unsatisfactory:-

Private sources - 3 unsatisfactory 2 of the 3 unsatisfactory reports were from Schools, one at Brampton has now since been connected to a nearby pumping installation at a private bore-hole and in the other at Flixton the Education Committee are being pressed to connect to the Council's water main, approx. 200 yards away. The third case was a cottage at Wissett and the consumer was advised to boil the water before use.

Public sources - 2 unsatisfactory: Public handpumps at Barsham High Common and Top Road, St. Andrew produced unsatis-

Water Contd.

-factory reports but subsequently sterile samples were obtained.

Public and Private piped supplies. 6 unsatisfactory: First samples from consumers taps were unsatisfactory at Worlingham Park Estate, St. Lawrence Water Works and Barsham Housing Estate but repeat samples from the first two proved satisfactory after the water towers in each case had been chlorinated. Remedial measures at Barsham Housing Estate, consisting of 8 houses, have not so far entirely eliminated a slight contamination which although not serious for a shallow well water does not come up to the accepted standard for piped supplies.

Piped Supplies

No new water mains were laid during the year.

The following table of houses supplied with piped water has been prepared from information obtained from the other officers of the Council:-

Number of dwellings supplied with mains water:

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>Private.</u>	<u>Public Standpipe</u>
All Saints.	14 (13)	14 (14)
Barsham.	8 (8)	
Blyford	13 (13)	
Flixton.	44 (43)	
Holton.	164 (150)	
Mettingham	15 (12)	
Redisham	12 (12)	5 (5)
Rumburgh.	26 (26)	55 (55)
St. Cross.	38 (38)	
St. Lawrence.	22 (15)	8 (8)
St. Margaret. (S.E.)	29 (29)	
Homersfield	42 (30)	
St. Peter.	8 (8)	
Shipmeadow	8 (8)	
Sotherton	14 (14)	
Spexhall	7 (7)	17 (17)
Wissett.	14 (14)	
Westhall.	41 (40)	
Willingham	16 (16)	
Worlingham. (Including 16 in the Borough of Beccles)	79 (75)	
	614 (571)	99 (99)

Private Water Works.

Ellough Airfield.	31 (40)	- (67)
	645. (611)	99 (166)

The figures in brackets denote the consumers at the end of 1952, from which it will be seen that the total number of consumers with a private piped supply has risen from 571 to 614 during the year under review in respect of properties supplied by the Wainford Council Water Undertaking.

The number of consumers supplied by the, as yet, private water mains at Ellough Airfield, has decreased as a result of the policy of depopulation of the emergency housing sites arising mainly from the transfer of families to permanent Council

Water Contd.

dwellingings by the various authorities concerned.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No public sewers as such were laid, but sections of private sewers were laid to 8 new Council houses at Worlingham and 43 new Council dwellingings at Holton. In each case the private sewer connects with the public foul water sewers discharging to existing sewage treatment works.

Sixteen new Council houses at Brampton and 8 at Sotherton were connected to a temporary septic tank pending the construction of sewage treatment works.

The desludging of sewage tanks, cesspools etc. at the Council's housing estates is supervised by the Sanitary Inspector. A three year contract with a specialist firm was entered into on 1st. October 1953, the cost of which is chargeable now to the Housing Revenue account.

As the result of informal action the various owners of 7 dwellingings in Holton Village have converted the pail closets to water closets connected to the public sewer. Negotiations are still in progress with the owner of four other properties.

It is known that the drainage at one school at least has been re-constructed.

RODENT CONTROL

The duties of the Council under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 continued to be carried out by one rodent operative under the supervision of the Public Health Department.

More and more use of Warfarin, the new blood anti-coagulant, has been made as a result of it's efficiency and comparative safety. Some of the 'mystery' of rodent destruction has been removed with the advent of this substance which can be incorporated in easily obtainable bait bases. In its present state of development this poison can only be used in dry places but even so its use in winter can help materially in reducing the rodent population in buildings, particularly farm buildings, and it can be confidently recommended to the farming community.

The extent to which rat-proofing of farm buildings is carried out leaves much to be desired but unfortunately the poor structural condition of many farmsteads makes it very difficult and expensive. The legal position requires to be clarified before much headway can be made in this direction.

From the administration angle the Council's rodent destruction service is considerably assisted and simplified with this new poison, Warfarin, which enables more treatments to be carried out per day when conditions are suitable for its use.

In September a sewer test was made of 10 per cent of the manholes of the Holton sewerage system and no evidence of rats was found.

The following is a summary of the annual statistical return made to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. (calendar year only).

	<u>Notifications.</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Infestations</u>	<u>Treatments</u>
Dwellings:	136	834	499	491
Farms:	8	79	21	17
Others:	3	32	19	19
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	147	945	539	527
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

MEAT, MILK AND OTHER FOODS.

Number of retails food shops:	27
Number of premises registered for the preparation and sale of sausages and meat products:	1
Number of premises registered for the sale of pre-packed ice cream:	4
Number of fried fish shops:	1
Number of butchers shops (pork):	1

Nearly all the food shops in the various parishes are general stores selling a variety of goods including hardware, millinery, pharmaceutical products and groceries etc.

One general grocery was completely rebuilt and enlarged during the year at Ringsfield Corner.

MILK

Number of producer/retailers registered with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries:	20
Number of retails milk distributors registered with premises in the District:	2
Number of retail milk distributors registered with premises outside the District:	4
Number of licences for the sale of:-	
Pasteurised milk:	4
Tuberculin Tested Milk:	2
Number of new bans issued on sale of raw milk found to be infected:	Nil
Number of bans lifted on sale of raw milk:	1
Number of bans remaining in force:	9
Number of herds discovered producing tuberculous milk:	2
Number of herds discovered producing brucella infected milk:	2

Milk with high cream content continues to be sold raw as 'Jersey Milk', 'Nursery Milk' etc. without any guarantee as to its safety for infant feeding. In some cases the milk is ordinary market milk, in others it is actually from tuberculin tested herds.

From the opposite angle it is confusing to have heat treated milk or milk from tuberculin tested herds sold to the public as ordinary market milk.

It is suggested that these matters should receive attention from the Legislators with a view to ensuring that all milk is pasteurised and sold as such.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

No change occurred in the arrangements under which a fortnightly roadside collection is made in 30 parishes on fixed days and weekly back door collection in the remaining 3 parishes by contract. The contractor was re-engaged in September for three years.

BURIALS - SECTION 50, NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Two requests from relatives for assistance were refused.

Another case was dealt with initially but subsequently relatives were found who undertook burial.

FACTORIES

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act 1937.

(Table follows overleaf)

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health:-

<u>Premises.</u>	<u>No. on Register.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Number of Written Notices.</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted.</u>
(i) Factories in which Secs. 1,2,3,4,&6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities. (Non-power factories)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec.7. is enforced by the Local Authority. (Mechanical Power Factories)	4	3	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Sec.7. is enforced by the Local Authority. (Building Sites Etc)	4	8	2	Nil
Total	8	11	2	Nil

2. Cases in which Defects were found

<u>Particulars.</u>	<u>No of cases in which defects were found</u>			
	<u>Found.</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred To H.M. Inspector.</u>	<u>By H.M. Inspector.</u>
Want of cleanliness.	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding.	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors:	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:				
a. Insufficient:	1	1	-	1
b. Unsuitable or defective:	2	2	-	-
c. Not separate for sexes:	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-
Total	3	3	-	1

Outwork

Section 110

Section 111

Nature of Work.

No. of outworkers
in Aug. list
required by Sec.
110(1)(c)

No. of cases
of default
in sending
lists to
Council

No. of
prosecutions
for failure
to supply
lists.

No. of
instances
of work
in un-
wholesome
premises.

Notices
served.

Prosecutions.

Wearing apparel.

Making etc.

Cleaning &
washing.

1

-

-

-

-

-

-

-

-

-

-

-